

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dr. Linda Gunderson on 4/22/2010.

The application has been amended as follows (based on claim list of 2/12/2010):

Claim 40 Line 2:

Delete the word "said" after the word "on" and before the words "at least".

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1-7, 9-19, 21, 22, 24-27, 29, 30 and 37-40 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Among above identified claims, Independent claims 1, 16, 37 and 40 have been amended by the Applicant, and further amended by above Examiner's Amendment (for claim 40), to include features similar to those in previous claim 8, which was indicated as allowable in previous Office Action because conventional techniques in the art failed to anticipate or render obvious said features. Therefore, said amendments having said features in said Independent claims result in the allowance indicated in section 2 above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW LAI whose telephone number is (571)272-9741. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00 EST, Off alternative Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kwang Yao can be reached on 571-272-3182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2473

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andrew Lai/
Examiner, Art Unit 2473

/KWANG B. YAO/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2473